

**DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY OF THE
ATLANTIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Westin Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia**

May 3, 2023

INDEX OF MOTIONS

1. Approval of Agenda by Consent (Page 1).
2. Approval of Meeting Summary from February 1, 202 by Consent (Page 1).
3. Move approval of the FY24 Budget. Motion by Mr. Keliher; seconded by Ms. Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Move moved to accept Option 1 of the Stipend White Paper, which states “the LGA Commissioners will continue to serve on a volunteer basis and not receive a stipend from the Commission.” Motion made by Mr. Keliher; seconded by Mr. Gilmore and passed by a vote of 14 – 1.
5. Adjourn by Consent (Page 2).

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Pat Keliher, ME
Cheri Patterson, NH
Dennis Abbott, NH (LA Chair)
Dan McKiernan, MA
Jason McNamee, RI
Justin Davis, CT
Jim Gilmore, proxy for Basil Seggos, NY
Jeff Brust, proxy for Joe Cimino, NJ
Kris Kuhn, PA

Roy Miller, DE (GA Chair)
John Clark, DE
Lynn Fegley, MD
Shanna Madsen, proxy for Jamie Green, VA
Chris Batsavage, proxy for Kathy Rawls, NC
Mel Bell, SC
Spud Woodward, GA, Chair
Erika Burgess, FL

Other Commissioners/Proxies

David Borden, RI
Lewis Gillingham, VA
Bill Hyatt, CT
Chris McDonough, SC
Nichola Meserve, MA
Renee Zobel, NH

Staff

Bob Beal
Tina Berger
Lisa Carty
Toni Kerns

Laura Leach
Alexander Law
Chelsea Tuohy

Guests

Debra Abercrombie, US FWS
Pat Augustine, Coram, NY
Carolyn Belcher
Jeff Brust, NJ DEP
Peter Clarke NJ DEP
Conor Davis, NJ DEP
Guy DuBeck, NOAA
Jesse Hornstein, NYS DEC
Kathy Knowlton, GA DNR
Tamara O'Connell, MD DNR

Derek Orner, NOAA
Nicole Pitts, NOAA
Erin Schnettler, NOAA
Chris Scott, NYS DEC
Ethan Simpson, VMRC
Somers Smott, VMRC
Beth Versak, MD DNR
Ann Williamson, NOAA
Chris Wright, NOAA

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission convened May 3, 2023 in the Jefferson Ballroom at The Westin in Crystal City, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair Spud Woodward.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF SUMMARY

The summary minutes from the February 1, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FY24 BUDGET

Mrs. Leach presented the proposed FY24 Commission budget which was reviewed by the Executive Committee. Mr. Keliher moved approval of the budget; seconded by Ms. Patterson. This motion passed unanimously.

L/GA COMMISSIONER STIPENDS

Mr. Beal presented an update on the potential for a L/GA members stipend. It was determined there is not a way for ASMFC to offer a tax break or benefit for participation in the Commission's meetings. Additionally, the determination of who is eligible and who would accept a stipend needs to be worked through. Mr. Keliher moved to accept Option 1 of the Stipend White Paper, which states "the LGA Commissioners will continue to serve on a volunteer basis and not receive a stipend from the Commission." The motion was seconded by Mr. Gilmore and passed by a vote of 14 – 1. Following the passage of this motion, the Executive Committee requested staff survey the L/GA Commissioners to determine which Commissioners are eligible to receive a stipend and of the eligible Commissioners, which ones would accept a stipend.

CONSERVATION EQUIVALENCY POLICY

Ms. Kerns presented the work group's recommended revisions to the Commission's Conservation Equivalency policy. There was considerable discussion on the proposed revision, and a bit of concern about the revision being too prescriptive and not flexible enough. The Chair requested Mr. Beal & Ms. Kerns work on a further revision of the policy, and set aside time at a future meeting to go through the Policy step-by-step to determine the appropriate revisions to the Policy.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Law presented on four bills that the Executive Committee should be aware of. These included: the Federally Integrated Species Health Act (FISH Act, H.R. 872), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act of 2023 (H.R. not yet assigned), Restoring Effective Science-based Conservation Under Environmental laws protecting Whales Act of 2023 (RESCUE Whales Act, H.R. 1213), and the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S. 1149). Bill Hyatt, the Chair of the Legislative Committee, noted that the Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE, S.373 and H.R.913). Act has been reintroduced in the 118th Congress and should continue to be monitored.

CLOSED SESSION

The Executive Committee went into a closed session to discuss the Executive Director's Performance Review.

ADJOURN

The Executive Committee adjourned at 10:00 a.m.